

The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIII.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 2, 1862.

NUMBER 166.

PUBLISHED (DAILY) BY
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OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over
Stone's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

GENERAL NEWS.

A despatch from Nashville, Tenn., says:—"Dr. Cheatham, superintendent of the Tennessee Lunatic Asylum, was sent to the penitentiary to-day for treason; also, Rev. C. D. Elliott. Fourteen hundred United States prisoners, taken at Shiloh and paroled, were sent home to-day. A large quantity of cotton has been received here."

A despatch from Manassas says:—"A lieutenant colonel in the Confederate army, of the name of Nichols, who has not yet resigned his commission, and declares he will not, was to-day arrested in the garb of a pedlar, going from camp to camp, selling his wares. Col. Pierce held him as a spy, and he is to be dealt with as such."

Preparations for the defence of the Northern lake frontier are urged upon Congress. It is alleged that the British government have really as complete a command of the Northern lakes as they have of the English channel.

Mrs. Elvira Ellet, relict of the late Colonel Charles F. Ellet, survived her widowhood but for a short period. She died on Sunday night, not from any disease, but from grief and prostration. She was forty six years of age.—Her father was Judge Daniel, of Virginia.

Dr. Lupton, John McDowell and Daniel Keller were arrested on Friday, at Romney, by order of Gen. Kelley. Refusing to take the oath was the charge upon which they were arrested.

A letter from Norfolk says that Gen. Viele has issued an order to the following effect:—"Assemblages in the street for the purpose of political discussions, being provocative of civil disturbances, are positively forbidden, and the exhibition of badges and flags indicative of disloyal sentiments will not be tolerated. Parents will be held responsible for the conduct of their children in this particular."

A letter from the White House to a New York paper, dated the 26th says:—"Captain Spencer, of the U. S. army, lately doing duty with the army of the Potomac, was arrested, it is alleged, by order of Gen. McClellan, and placed in close confinement. He was brought to this port and put on board the gunboat Marblehead. The alleged charge against the accused is disloyalty to the Union. It appears that the uncle of the prisoner is a judge in the State of Maryland, and was recently arrested. Capt. Spencer, who was educated under the care of his uncle, upon learning of the arrest of his benefactor, laid down his sword and refused duty. The prisoner will be sent to Fort Lafayette."

Frank T. Sands, of Washington, who holds the position at present, has been appointed undertaker for the burial of soldiers the next six months, he being the lowest bidder.

The U. S. Senate, yesterday, had under consideration the bill to admit Western Virginia into the Union as a State, but after some debate it was laid aside, and the army appropriation bill taken up, amended, and passed.—It appropriates two million dollars to provide for the comfort of discharged soldiers who may arrive at home wounded, and forwarding disabled soldiers home. The House further amended the tariff bill, after which it was passed.—The bill relating to claims for destruction of property belonging to loyal citizens, &c., was postponed until December next. A committee of conference was appointed on the naval appropriation bill, the House having refused to concur in some of the Senate's amendments.

By an order from the authorities at Washington, Mr. C. C. Fulton, of the Baltimore American, was unconditionally released from Fort McHenry at midnight last night.

Instead of General Shields resigning, it is now said that he is authorized to raise a corps of Irish soldiers for the service of the United States.

The New York Journal of Commerce, of yesterday, says of financial matters in that city on Monday:—"The market has been very much unsettled by the want of definite intelligence of army movements, and but little business has been transacted. Specie continues in demand. Gold is worth 109½ for mixed, and 109½@109¾ for double eagles. Silver 105@105½. Old demand notes 104½@105. Foreign exchange at the opening was unsettled, and some bills were sold at easier rates, but toward the close there was more buoyancy, although the advance was not up to the highest point reached last week."

There is not as much talk as there has been touching an adjournment of Congress, although the business of the session is much nearer its consummation than is usual at a date two or three days precedent to adjournment.

The Memphis Avalanche has been notified by the provost marshal that the editorials published are exceedingly objectionable, as criticisms on the course of military officials cannot be allowed, and it is warned not to repeat the offence.

The contract for the supplying of stationery to the Navy Department and its several bureaus for the ensuing fiscal year, has been awarded to Philp and Solomons, of Washington.

The House of Representatives, yesterday, by a vote of 65 yeas to 63 nays, laid on the table the bill to construct a ship canal for the Mississippi river to Lake Michigan, and for other purposes.

The appropriation of \$150,000 for secret service, one of the items of the army appropriation bill, was yesterday increased in the Senate to \$500,000.

No person is living in the town of Belmont, Missouri, where a battle was fought some time since; the stench from dead horses preventing people from living within two miles of the town.

The French "Courrier," in New York, in a long article on foreign intervention, expresses the opinion that the rumor of the intention of England and France, to meddle in our civil war, is without foundation.

President Lincoln has issued a proclamation to the effect "that the States of South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, and the State of Virginia, (except the following counties, Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor, Pleasants, Tyler, Ritchie, Doddridge, Harrison, Wood, Jackson, Wirt, Roane, Calhoun, Gilmer, Barbour, Tucker, Lewis, Braxton, Upshur, Randolph, Mason Putnam, Kanawha, Clay, Nicholas, Cabell, Wayne, Boone, Logan, Wyoming, Webster, Fayette, and Raleigh,) are now in insurrection and rebellion, and by reason thereof the civil authority of the United States is obstructed so that the provisions of the "Act to provide increased revenue from imports to pay the interest on the public debt and for other purposes approved August fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, cannot be peacefully executed, and that the taxes legally chargeable upon real estate under the act last aforesaid, lying within the States and parts of States as aforesaid, together with a penalty of fifty per centum of said taxes, shall be a lien upon the tracts or lots of the same severally charged, till paid."

Gen. McDowell is preparing for publication a vindication of himself, "in which he will prove that it was against his remonstrance that he was withheld from co-operation with Gen. McClellan, and that he desired to advance from Fredericksburg to aid in the attack upon Richmond, and that it was not his fault he did not. He will also refer, it is stated, to the charge of guarding rebel property."

Secretary Seward, at the Astor House in New York, on Tuesday, informed the editors who waited on him, that he had no further information than had been published in the papers of the morning, and that Gen. McClellan had communication with the fleet on James River. He also said that a man had been sent to Fort Lafayette, a short time since, for publishing information, such as the reporters sought, being prejudicial to the Government, and good humoredly exclaimed that he might also be placed in the same position. The Secretary also declared that there was no truth in the report that two European governments had given notice that the war should cease.

We understand that the Superintendent of Public Printing has ascertained, by a critical examination, that he can print the proceedings of Congress as they are now printed in the Globe, and save the Government \$80,000 on each Congress, and that he has made this report to a congressional committee.

The burning of the White House was either an accident or the work of an incendiary, as Gen. Casey gave explicit orders for the White House not to be destroyed.